

BLOW AT THE SUFFRAGETTES

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tions are being asked in the Chamber about it.

It is on the State managed Western Railway that the disorder seems worst. At headquarters they say that the cause of the disorganization is the want of sufficient rolling stock, but it has been shown that at the moment there are 700 freight trucks filled with merchandise sidetracked near the racecourse of Maisons-Laffitte and 250 wagons lost in the depths of the Forest Saint Germain. Many of these have not moved from where they are since the beginning of December and not a few of them contain perishable goods.

There are whispers of a sinister cause for all this trouble. This is what is coming to be known as the "grève" strike, literally the "grève" strike, which may be freely translated as the "grève" strike.

It will be recalled that during the recent strike of railway men they were forced to submission by the employment by the French Government of soldiers, the men themselves being called on as reserves to take part in putting down the strike. This action was very bitterly resented by the chemists, and though they had then to yield they swore to find means of getting even.

If what is said to be going on just now is true they have invented a new and subtle means of reprisal which leaves them immune and causes endless trouble and expense to the railway companies. This may be called the delicate art of sending things astray. Here is a practical example.

A goods car leaves Havre for Paris. By an unhappy mistake, the author of which can never be traced, it is turned aside on route and arrives perhaps ultimately at Lille. Again, the tickets of destination attached to cars somehow often get detached and mixed and goods sent for one town find their way to another, and it is all a mix up and nobody can explain the reason for it all.

Employees may notice that cars have come their way which should have gone somewhere, but they shut their eyes and see them only on the other side of a rain containing 300 cattle and 1,000 pigs due at Paris failed to arrive and has never since been heard of.

Twice lately trains have failed to show up in time at the Gare du Nord and have tipped up the platform. "Faulty brakes," say the drivers. "La grève perle," say the knowing ones. There are constant other mysterious happenings, such as trains going off the rails without apparent reason, signals being blocked, switches tampered with.

Germany is a great place for jubilees of all kinds, but none more quaint has ever been celebrated than that which Berlin has just placed to its credit. It is exactly 200 years since the German capital granted the privilege of Christian burial to actors.

Previously the actors were classed with rone and wire dancers, clowns, conjurers, gypsies and vagabonds in general, and as such were not entitled to the last rites of the Church. They were the subject of innumerable prohibitory and minatory ordinances and rescripts, and respectable citizens were repeatedly warned by official decrees not to lend money to them, because to do so would be tantamount to endorsing their crimes.

At last in 1711 Berlin, to its honor, broke with the practice, for in that year an actor named Jacob Scheller, a popular comedian of his time, was buried in the churchyard of the Nicolai Kirche. Even he was not allowed burial in the churchyard without protest from the clergy, and his body was lowered into a grave dug on the very edge of the sacred enclosure.

It may be added that the edict against lending money to actors was rescinded as late as 1781. There are doubtless some who think such an ordinance might not be out of date in the present year of grace.

The latest reform about to be introduced on German railways is the placing of safes aboard long distance trains. The safes are to be made of steel, with two keys, one to be kept in the custody of the passenger and the other in that of the train guard, both being necessary for the opening of the safe.

The safes are to be placed in the guard's van and to be large enough to hold a small grip, jewel case or similar package. A very moderate charge will be made for the use of the safes, the State taking all risks arising from theft, fire or railway accident, and protecting itself by a system of insurance.

The reform, which might also be adopted with success on Italian railroads, was suggested by the number of assaults and robberies which occurred last year on certain of the German lines.

Two Cambridge undergraduates have just been acquitted on a charge of the theft of some surveying instruments from Cambridge University. That they took the instruments was not denied, but they pleaded that they had done it for a bet, and not with any felonious intent.

This risking of their freedom for a wager has recalled the case of a certain Mr. Melinhsh, who risked his life in the Peninsular war for the sake of a wager. Melinhsh, a well known sportsman, having lost his fortune at racing in England, went to the thick of the fighting in the Peninsula. There, so far from owning horses, he rode a wretched nag. Brother officers chaffed him about his worthlessness.

"I bet £50 I get £45 for him," said Melinhsh. "Done!" snapped half a dozen officers.

The best looked Melinhsh mounted the horse and rode straight for the enemy's nearest picket. The shooting began at once, but, disregarding the bullets, he rode on till his mount fell ridden under him. He then walked back to his own lines, and reached them unhurt. He had won the bet, for the Government then allowed £45 for each officer's horse killed in action.

How many of the people who own their living in vaudeville, and of the still greater number who take their chief pleasure therein, know how the modern sense of the word "arse" arose? The latest serious railway accident in France has suggested the subject.

The scene of it was Vire, a picturesque little town in the heart of what the French call the Norman Switzerland. There, beneath the lofty donjon which is all that remains of Henry I's great castle, is the little hamlet of Vaux de Vire, the dwelling place in the fifteenth century of Olivier Basselin, the author of a series of witty drinking songs.

One of the best known of them made merry over the singer's own red nose

entitled the red nosed comedian of today to claim an ancient and literary pedigree. It was from Vaux de Vire and its singer that the word, corrupted into vaudeville, passed into the French language and afterward into our own.

The managers of the Gayety Theatre in Paris have found the solution placed in a dilemma by the persistence with which a horse continues to put on flesh. The horse at one time was a candidate for the knicker's pole, but fate was kind to him. The managers of the Gayety were about to stage Masson's new opera "Don Quixote" and they cast about for a horse that could play the role of Rosinante, the hero's charger.

Paris was requisitioned for an animal lean and miserable looking enough, and finally they found a worn-out and decrepit steed. He duly made his first appearance in the part and was a great success. But the actresses of the Gayety, letting their pity get the better of their discretion, offered the horse food, which he greedily devoured in such quantities and to such good purpose that to the consternation of the managers he gradually grew fatter and fatter until he became altogether too sleek and robust for his purpose.

They were in despair, being loath to discard the animal, for he was a good actor. Finally they mastered the difficulty by painting false ribs on the animal's hide in order to give him the necessary appearance of sorrowful emaciation.

Sir Henry Irving once had trouble over a horse which he had secured for the part of Rosinante in a play he was about to produce. It was a sad faced animal whose condition was such that on the morning of the rehearsal an officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals caused it to be taken to Bow street police court, where the magistrate ordered it to be killed.

An exposition of blood murders in the shape of dime novelettes has been opened in a hall of the Reichstag Building in Berlin. Its purpose is to show the German citizen the undesirable character of the literature indulged in by children.

On display are many thousands of booklets with gory titles and still more gory illustrations. About 1,000 of them are translations of American and English shockers. An examination of the books shows that German boys are not eager to read Red Indian stories or sea horrors, but are particularly fond of Inquisition tortures and also of modernism, especially of burglary. This probably accounts for the fact that nearly all German youthful offenders explain their delinquencies by overindulgence in the cheap shocker.

"The German boy," writes a critic of the exposition, "likes his horrors crude, violent and brief, and has not the love of suspense which characterizes the American or English youth. Moreover the German does not believe in the triumph of virtue. In his favorite type of novel-

the criminal always gets the better of the honest man. That is why in Germany this literature has such injurious effects."

The latest manifestation of the German passion for uniforms is the decision of the Kaiser to provide special robes of honor for the senators of the new Kaiser Wilhelm Foundation for the Promotion of Scientific Research, which came into existence last week as the result of an endowment of \$2,500,000 raised upon the Emperor's personal initiative. Its administration rests with a senate composed partly of elected members and partly of others appointed by the Kaiser.

The first appointment was made by the Emperor the other day at a hall at the palace. It was Count Eulenburg, chief marshal to the imperial court, who received the distinction. To Herr von Diersen, a retired diplomat whom the Kaiser also made a senator, the Kaiser remarked that he had designed a uniform for the senators, consisting of green cloth with rich gold embroidery and red velvet facings.

Membership of the foundation and the possibility of becoming a senator can be obtained by payment of an entrance fee of \$5,000 and an annual subscription of \$250.

How the boycott cuts both ways is illustrated in the current *Journal* of the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey.

The Turkish boycott of Greek trade and shipping has now lasted over seven months, and although it has undoubtedly affected Greek merchants, goods and steamers there appears to be little doubt that the Ottoman Government and merchants, and especially the working classes, have themselves suffered.

The Government loses in dues owing to Greek steamers having ceased to call at Constantinople. About thirty trading steamers representing 15,000 tons have been tied up and the consequent loss in harbor and light dues has been about \$100,000. Losses of other kinds are difficult to calculate but must be very considerable.

The *Journal* points out that while there may be a temporary pecuniary loss to Greece and a divergence of Greek trade elsewhere the balance will in time be restored, but the loss to Turkey herself is a permanent one.

Natives have frequently mentioned a mysterious elephantlike animal which lived in a lake, but white settlers have never been able to identify it. It was at a place called Tomba Mayi, on the north banks of Leopold II. Lake that Prof. Le Petit came upon a group of five queer animals not unlike elephants, but with longer necks, shorter trunks, smaller ears and apparently no tusks.

They halted about six hundred yards from the party, so that a good view of them was obtained. The explorers estimated

the height of these animals as not exceeding seven feet. As soon as the creatures became aware of the approach of human beings they rushed into the water and swam away, with only the tops of their heads and snouts visible.

The trail of them was afterward found and the natives said that the footprints were those of the elusive water elephant. These footprints, it was noted, were entirely different from those of the ordinary elephant.

Another strange African animal is the so-called Derbrian eland, to seek which F. C. Selous, the well known hunter, is setting out this week. Selous has been commissioned by the British Natural History Museum to secure a specimen of this animal.

The Derbrian eland has been known for some time to naturalists, and big game hunters have succeeded in bagging one or two, but a complete specimen has never been seen in England. The object of Mr. Selous's journey is the Bahr-el-Ghazal, a tributary of the Nile to the south of which the Derbrian eland is supposed to be found.

Mr. Selous will be unaccompanied by any white man. He must conclude his hunting by the beginning of May, as the rainy season then sets in.

Court gossip from Madrid has it that the relations between young Queen Victoria and her mother-in-law, Queen

Christina, have become strained to the breaking point. Queen Christina has not taken any part in the recent court festivities and has withdrawn almost entirely from intercourse with her son's family.

The dowager Queen has never forgiven King Alfonso for neglecting to ask her advice on political questions, and for this change she blames hostile influences exercised by her daughter-in-law. There was much unpleasantness from the moment the Spanish Cabinet assumed an anti-clerical attitude. It grew worse daily, until now it amounts almost to a definite rupture.

One of the stories that is told in court circles is the following. In the nursery not long ago the royal children in the presence of their grandmother were amusing themselves with a jigsaw puzzle. The little Prince of the Asturias picked up a piece which had the picture of a monkey on it and asked his baby brother, "Don't you think that's like grandma?" Queen Christina, furious at what she thought was an intentional rudeness caused by bad upbringing, slapped the child, which set up a howl.

Just then Queen Victoria entered and in an instant had taken in the scene. With-out a word or a look at her mother-in-law she took the children away to her own rooms and the same evening there was a violent scene between King Alfonso and his mother. Since then Queen Christina has avoided her son's household.

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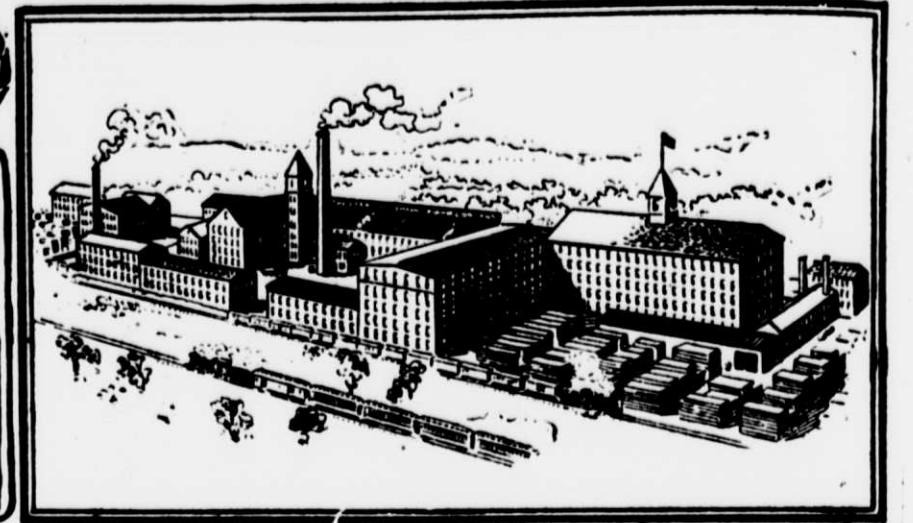
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Mendelssohn	275.00	230.00
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Huntington	300.00	175.00
Huntington	300.00	270.00
Huntington	300.00	225.00
Huntington	300.00	210.00
Huntington	300.00	235.00
Huntington	300.00	230.00
Huntington	325.00	255.00
Huntington	325.00	250.00
Huntington	325.00	265.00

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	Regular Price	Sale Price
Sterling	\$700.00	\$540.00
Stodart	450.00	400.00
Sterling	700.00	590.00
Sterling	700.00	575.00
Sterling	700.00	580.00
Mendelssohn	550.00	495.00
Sterling	700.00	585.00
Sterling	600.00	475.00

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Steck	700.00	315.00
Leckerling	250.00	160.00
Arion	275.00	175.00
Bohr Bros	500.00	295.00
Schlurmer	275.00	175.00
Raven	250.00	170.00
Ernest Gabler	325.00	165.00
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Bradbury	400.00	155.00
Hazeltin Bros	475.00	180.00
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Bradbury	400.00	170.00
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	Regular Price	Sale Price
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Inlaid Mahogany		
Sheraton Upright	700.00	525.00
Inlaid Mahogany		
Empire Upright	700.00	495.00
Inlaid Mahogany		
Empire Upright	700.00	500.00
Inlaid Mahogany		
Empire Upright	700.00	500.00
Colonial Satinwood	550.00	350.00
Colonial Mahogany dull finish	500.00	450.00
Sheraton Inlaid	700.00	525.00
Sheraton	500.00	410.00
Crotch Mahogany		
White & Gold	550.00	475.00
Cabinet Players		
	Regular Price	Sale Price
Apollo	\$250.00	\$155.00
Sterling	250.00	160.00
Simplex	250.00	90.00
Angelus	275.00	70.00
Sterling	250.00	170.00

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